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A newly discovered paralectotype of *Pteroptochos megapodius* Kittlitz, 1830

by F. D. Steinheimer

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In 1834, John Edward Gray (1800-1875) of the British Museum, now The Natural History Museum (BMNH), started an extended exchange with Eduard Rüppell (1794-1884) from Frankfurt am Main receiving at least 20 of Rüppell's Abyssinian types (Rüppell 1835-40, 1845) (Steinheimer, in press).

Among the BMNH Rüppell specimens is also a single bird from Chile, a Moustached Turca *Pteroptochos megapodius* (BMNH reg. no. 1842.8.16.27), which was the first of this species to reach the BMNH. No entry for this specimen was found in the old BMNH Vellum catalogues, where many of Rüppell's birds were listed, showing that the specimen had been received as part of a later exchange between 1837 and 1842 (Knox & Walters 1992).

As Rüppell never went to Chile, this early Chilean specimen in Rüppell's museum at Frankfurt probably came from Baron Friedrich Heinrich von Kittlitz (1799-1874), whose Chilean collection (March-April 1827) went partly to Frankfurt (Steinbacher 1954), but also to Berlin and St. Petersburg. This specimen is unlikely to have been part of the collection of another German, Eduard Friedrich Pöppig (1798-1868),

who collected in South America during 1827-1832 (Morawetz & Röser 1998), since no Pöppig specimens have been found at Frankfurt (Gerald Mayr, *in litt.* 2001). Except for another Kittlitz specimen, all other *Pteroptochos megapodius* at Frankfurt museum were collected later than the 1850s. The BMNH specimen must therefore be one of the unknown number of former syntypes, now paralectotype by designation of Chrostowski 1921, of *Pteroptochos megapodius* Kittlitz, 1830, and the only recorded skin of this collector at the BMNH. The specimen is a study skin, i.e. it was never mounted, with the following data: “Chili, Dr. Rüppell” [exact locality: Valparaiso], and it fits very well with Kittlitz’s (1830) description (pp. 182-183), measurements and illustration (plate IV). Other specimens are at Frankfurt (paralectotype SMF 16726, Chili, 28 March 1827, Steinbacher 1954) and St. Petersburg Museum (4 paralectotypes, 1 lectotype labelled “No. 28[a] *Pteroptochos Megapodius Kittl. Chili v. Kittlitz*”, Chrostowski 1921).

In addition to this skin, The Natural History Museum holds further skeletal material from Kittlitz’s collection. In 1850, the BMNH obtained 38 skeletons of Chilean birds (BMNH 1850.11.14.1-38; not 81 Chilean skeletons as listed in Sharpe 1906; the other skeletons are from other localities), including *Pteroptochos megapodius*, from Johann Georg Wilhelm Brandt (1794–1856), relative of Prof. Dr. Johann Friedrich von Brandt (1802–1879) of the Imperial Museum, St. Petersburg (Sharpe 1906, Gebhardt 1964, 1970). Most of Kittlitz’s material was given to the St. Petersburg Museum and these very early skeletons of Chilean birds were again probably collected by Kittlitz; thus the skeleton of *Pteroptochos megapodius* derives from the same series as the type specimens.

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First confirmed record of *Agyrtria versicolor* (Trochilidae) for Peru

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Among the five species of the Neotropical hummingbird genus *Agyrtria* endemic to South America (Weller 1998, 1999; formerly included in *Amazilia*), the Versicolored Emerald *A. versicolor* has the widest geographical distribution, ranging from the lowlands of southern Venezuela and eastern Colombia southward to north-eastern Argentina (Misiones) and south-eastern Brazil (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978, Hilty & Brown 1986, Sick 1993). Five subspecies are currently recognized (Weller 1999; Fig. 1): *A. v. milleri* (Venezuela south of Río Orinoco, C Colombia, NE Peru, N Brazil), *A. v. hollandi* (SE Venezuela, W Guyana), *A. v. nitidifrons* (NE Brazil), *A. v. kubtcheki* (interior S Brazil, C Paraguay, NE Argentina), and *A. v. versicolor* (SE Brazil). The closely related taxon *A. rondoniae*, known only from the upper Río Madeira (W Brazil to NE Bolivia), is considered specifically distinct (Weller 1999), based on reported sympatry with *A. versicolor* (Ruschi 1982), contrary to Sick (1993) who suggested it was a subspecies of the latter.

A. v. milleri is the most widespread subspecies, being mainly restricted to the basins of the Orinoco and Amazon and their tributaries (Fig. 1). The western distributional limits were considered to be in central Colombia, where the taxon has been recorded from Arauca and Meta southward to Caquetá (Nicéforo & Olivares 1967, Hilty & Brown 1986; specimen data). Moreover, a number of specimens are known from the "Bogotá collections", but it may be reasonably presumed that these birds were actually collected in the region east of the Andes because the taxon is absent from the western slope of the Cordillera Oriental and from all other mountain